

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

MAY 1971 NEWSLETTER

MAY MEETING

The May meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 1971, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Wasserfall, 22 Roycrest Ave., Willowdale, at 8:00 p.m. The speaker for the evening will be Mr. David Brewer.

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Martin, Tuesday, April 20, with ten members present.

Bill Wasserfall reported on the trip to Whitefish Point, April 12-18. Conditions were not ideal: the snow was four feet deep; comparatively few raptors were trapped. Dennis Rupert took over at the end of the week.

The speaker for the evening, Jim Anderson, gave a very interesting talk on his duck-banding operation in Dundas Marsh. Since he began duck trapping in earnest in 1965, he has had 110 recoveries from twenty states, Ontario and Cuba. He has been most successful in banding Wood Ducks and Black Ducks. There are 32 Wood Duck nesting boxes in the marsh at present, and there does seem to be a correlation between the number of boxes and the banding totals.

Instead of the usual coloured slides, Jim illustrated his talk by means of a large aerial photograph of the whole "Coote's Paradise" area, so that those present could get a precise idea of where the operation was going on. He also brought copies of some very old maps of the area and related a little of its history.

A VOLUNTEER!

A university student from Windsor has written to say that he would like to help out with ornithology projects in the summer on a part-time basis in order to get field experience. If anyone could use a helper in the area of Essex, Kent or Lambton Counties, please contact Brian Fieldwick, 76 Tecumseh Rd. East, Apt. #201, Windsor 14, Ontario.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are now payable: Single - \$4.00, Husband & Wife - \$6.00. Student (under 18) - \$2.00.

Dues should be sent to the Ontario Bird Banding Association, 300 Athol St. E., Oshawa, Ontario.

According to our records you have not yet renewed your membership this year. (If our records are in error, please let us know.)

BANDING NEWS

Don Baldwin sends us the following interesting item:

On Jan. 11, 1971, a CN electrician found a dead bird caught in the undercarriage of a diesel locomotive used for shunting in the Toronto area. It wore a Danish band #812603. The finder wrote the Canadian Audubon Society, which passed the information on to the Danish authorities. The bird turned out to be an adult male Snow Bunting, banded in the Godthab district of Greenland, April 26, 1970.

LONG POINT HIGHLIGHTS

A very busy year is planned at Long Point in 1971. Among the scheduled projects are the following:

Colour marking of Sanderling and Semipalmated Sandpipers to detect differences in the movement of heavy and light birds from the Point; under the direction of M. Bradstreet.

The Lighthouse project, to determine the energy requirements of migratory flight, under the direction of D. Hussell.

A study of Kingbird territories; G. Fairfield.

Differential Spring Migration in the White-throated Sparrow; M. Bradstreet.

Cannon-netting of gulls and terns; D. Brewer. (This one sounds like fun--to quote from a description of the project: "Estimate of time: longer than expected. 2-3 people are sufficient, but more preferable. Visitors who will guarantee to keep still, keep quiet and keep their heads down are very welcome to participate." Cannon-netting consists of using small mortars, synchronized, to fire a net over a flock of birds).

There are three professional studies planned:

G. Holroyd will be studying food differences of Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, Purple Martins and Eastern Kingbirds.

D. Hussell will investigate the limitation of brood size in Tree Swallows.

R. Gibson will be studying the occurrence of melanistic (black-phase) Garter Snakes.

Other projects include the placing of Wood Duck boxes, Monarch Butterfly banding, and an orchid and fern survey.

If you wish to visit Long Point, you may book a reservation with Mrs. D. Brewer, 277 Arthur St. N., Guelph, Ontario (519-824-4342).